

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03 IO-13 OIC-04 ACDA-19

OMB-01 AEC-11 AECE-00 SY-10 DRC-01 /171 W

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P R 251920Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1767

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4520

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: NATO COMMON FACILITY IN VIENNA

1. MBFR ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP ON SEPTEMBER 25 HAD FURTHER DISCUSSION OF BUILDING FOR COMMON FACILITY. U.S. AND ITALIAN REPS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER BUDGETARY ASPECTS, BUT OTHER ALLIES SUPPORTED RENNWEG BUILDING. THEY WERE STRENGTHENED IN THIS VIEW BY REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL STAFF REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENNA THAT RE-WIRING OF RENNWEG WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE NECESSARY AND OWNERS WOULD REDECORATE AT THEIR EXPENSE. MOST ALLIES PREFERRED TO RETAIN FOOTHOLD CONCEPT WITHOUT MODIFICATION, INCLUDING OFFICES FOR DELEGATIONS.

2. UK REP SAID THAT NEED FOR RE-WIRING WAS PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF UK CONCERN OVER SECURITY OF BUILDING, AND, IF NATO SECURITY STAFF WAS CONVINCED THAT BUILDING COULD BE MADE SECURE, HE WOULD ASK LONDON TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION. NATO SECURITY DIRECTOR (ABIDIAN) SAID THAT HE COULD GUARANTEE SECURITY OF THE BUILDING, WITHOUT MAJOR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES.
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3. U.S. REP SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY REPORT FROM IS REP IN VIENNA, BUT REMAINED CONCERNED THAT A COMMON FACILITY MIGHT BECOME MORE EXCESSIVE AND COSTLY THAN REQUIRED. DRAWING ON STATE 184013, HE ASKED IS REPS TO JUSTIFY A NEED FOR 22 POSITIONS

TO ADMINISTER, SERVICE AND GUARD THE BUILDING (USNATO 4260).
ABIDIAN SAID THAT 9-10 GUARDS WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE
SECURITY FOR RENNWEG SINCE HE WOULD NEED A ROVING PATROL AS
WELL AS AN ENTRANCE GUARD. ADMIN GROUP CHAIRMAN (SEKERIS)
AGREED TO DROP 5 OF THE 15 POSITIONS FOR GUARDS AND TO ENSURE
THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER POSITION WOULD BE
VALID FOR ONLY SIX MONTHS, I.E. UNTIL THE COMMON FACILITY WAS
WELL ESTABLISHED.

4. U.S. REP STRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THESE REDUCTIONS, BUT
SAID HE STILL COULD NOT AGREE TO THE RENNWEG BUILDING. HE
BELIEVED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED
IN THE OUTCOME OF THE BUDGETARY DISCUSSION SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 27

ITALIAN REP SAID HE WOULD SEEK ROME'S AGREEMENT TO RENNWEG.

5. MBFR ADMIN GROUP WILL MEET ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, IN AN
EFFORT TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON BUILDING.

6. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED ESTIMATE
FOR RENNWEG BUILDING COSTS AND IS SUPPORT STAFF CUTS WILL LEAD
TO A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER TOTAL FIGURE FOR COMMON FACILITY THAN
EARLIER ESTIMATES. IN ADDITION, THE US SHARE WILL BE REDUCED
STILL FURTHER, IF WE CAN GET AN EQUITABLE COST-SHARING
FORMULA AT SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING. WE WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT
IMMEDIATELY OF RESULTS OF SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING, INCLUDING
REVISED COST ESTIMATES, SO THAT DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE FURTHER
GUIDANCE PRIOR SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING OF MBFR ADMIN GROUP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO04520
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730962/abqcecfw.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: NATO COMMON FACILITY IN VIENNA
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE INFO SECDEF
BRUSSELS
VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005